

Graeme Charles on Co-operation in The Devondaler



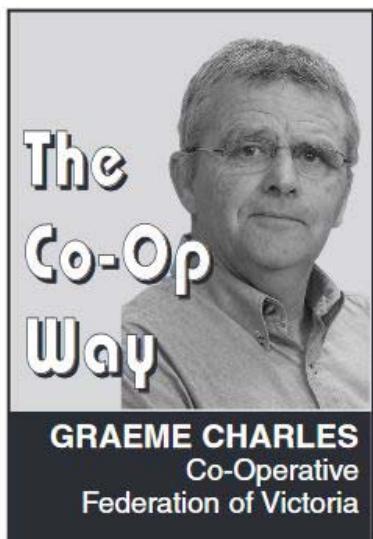
Graeme Charles was the Executive Officer and Secretary of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd between 1999 and 2002 and Deputy Chairman between 2002 and 2008 – the peak body for co-operatives in the Australian State of Victoria.

Between 2006 and 2008 Graeme Charles was a guest columnist for The Devondaler – the monthly newspaper of Murray Goulburn Co-operative Co. Limited. The Devondaler was established in 1986.

The Co-operative is one of Australia's largest with 2200 dairy farmer members and more than 2000 employees.

Twenty of these columns have been reproduced.

UK Co-operative College and Co-operative Federation of Victoria helping Murray Goulburn realise its co-operative identity.



A knowledge sharing partnership with the Co-operative College has allowed Murray Goulburn directors and senior management to learn a deeper understanding of what it is to be a co-operative.

In early September the College's Director of Learning & Development, Chris Cooper, conducted a Co-operative Identity workshop for about thirty participants at the Integrated Logistics Centre. The content of the workshop was developed by the College and the Co-operative Federation of Victoria working in partnership. It was designed to build the understanding of the co-operative's directors, senior managers and other participants about the values, principles and practices of co-operation, and how their implementation can contribute to business success.

The Co-operative College has led the UK Co-operative movement in the development and delivery of co-operative identity programs for directors, managers, members and front line staff and the Australian movement is now for the first time able to learn from the experience developed there.

Co-operative Federation of Victoria secretary, David Griffiths said: "Without the Co-operative College we would not have been able to proceed with this initiative – because

you can't invent the credibility, legitimacy, experience and expertise that the College brought to it. Whilst Australia has trainers and educationalists happy to deliver any course, anywhere, they are devoid of co-operative history, experience and expertise and this would be counter-productive."

Murray Goulburn Chairman, Ian Macaulay said: " I have learned as a result of this workshop that I can't slack off. Along with the rest of my team the workshop has refreshed my vigour to keep on reinforcing the co-operative message."

The Federation hopes to bring the College back to Australia in 2007 to deliver another series of workshops to build and sustain the message of co-operation within this Country.

11 December 2006



List of Graeme Charles articles published between 2006 - 2008

Title	Date on Article or File – not when published	Identification Number
Why do you belong to Murray Goulburn Co-operative Company	1 September 2006	1
The importance of co-operatives in agriculture across the world.	2 October 2006	2
What Gives Co-operatives A Bad Name	21 November 2006	3
Murray Goulburn one of only two Australian co-operatives in the ICA Global 300	No date	4
UK Co-operative College and Co-operative Federation of Victoria helping Murray Goulburn members co-operative identity	!! December 2006	6
Review of The Democracy Principle: Farmer Co-operatives in Twentieth Century Australia by David Griffiths	12 February 2007	7
Particular Challenges for Co-operatives – Funding Expansion	12 February 2007	8
Particular Challenges for Co-operatives Part 2 Effective Democracy, or to put it another way, Members In Control	12 February 2007	9
Why are we ignoring co-operative solutions?	10 March 2007	10
A Co-operative AWB	29 March 2007	11
Could health co-operatives help solve the shortage of doctors in rural areas?	1 May 2007	12
Co-operative Demutualisation: the International Co-operative Alliance Response	6 August 2007	13
US Credit Unions buck Global Demutualisation Trend	7 August 2007	14
Co-operatives creating value for farmers and rural communities	4 November 2007	No number
Dairy Co-operatives in India	12 November 2007	16
Cooperatives get together in New Zealand to discuss the Co-operative Advantage of Dairy Business	21 November 2007	17
Retaining Co-operative Characteristics	25 January 2008	18

and Globalisation		
Agricultural Co-operatives are Financially Competitive	7 February 2008	19
Does Co-operation Improve Profitability for Farmers	3 June 2008	21
Small is sometimes beautiful	30 September 2008	Number unknown